Summer 1992:

- Summer Fun and Safety
- Huron's Philp Drain
- Changing Political Scene
- Ethanol and Clean Air
- “Friends of Agriculture”
Can the Tax and Spend Mentality be Stopped?

Farm Bureau members across the country were deeply disappointed that the U.S. House failed, by nine votes, to pass a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

All of the Michigan House Republican delegation voted in favor of the amendment, along with Democratic Rep. Bob Carr. The rest of the Michigan House Democratic delegation voted against the amendment.

The amendment, sponsored by Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-Texas), would have required a balanced budget by 1998 and would have mandated a three-fifths majority in the House and Senate to breach a budget or raise the debt ceiling. The plan would also have required a constitutional majority (218 House members, 51 senators) to raise taxes.

Once again, the taxpayers of this nation have been frustrated in their efforts to slow down the runaway federal spending machine. Why does it seem next to impossible for lawmakers to understand the depth of feeling across this country in favor of lower government expenditures?

An insight into this dilemma comes from some research done by economist James Payne of Lytton Research & Analysis. Payne did a study of congressional hearings on spending programs. He examined 14 different hearings on a wide variety of programs and tabulated the orientation of more than one thousand witnesses. Here are his results:

In favor of spending programs: 1,014
Against spending: 7

Payne said that letters, phone calls and personal visits to Congressmen and congressional aides all run overwhelmingly in favor of specific programs. Government agencies and government officials supplied most of the opinion and information to policymakers. "The city of Washington is overwhelmed by advocates of spending programs," Payne said, "and congressmen are exposed to their one-sided pitches day in and day out. Since there is practically no one in the system who bothers to contradict this propaganda, the result is a considerable degree of brainwashing. In their heart of hearts, most legislators actually believe in spending programs."

The only way to shake this belief is for lawmakers to hear from real citizens out in the country. This summer election season offers a tremendous opportunity for you to make your views known to your local congressman. Tell him that all federal spending, including entitlements, must be reduced by an across-the-board cut or spending freeze. Don't let him get away with trying to blame the executive branch for runaway federal spending. Hold his feet to the fire by reminding him that all expenditure bills originate with Congress.

In addition to talking to your congressman, consider actively working to elect people who are fiscally conservative. One of the criteria used to select the Farm Bureau AgriPAC "Friends of Agriculture" congressional endorsements listed in this issue of Rural Living is commitment to federal spending restraint.

Your Farm Bureau organization will continue to work in support of a balanced budget, across the board spending restraints without new taxes and a presidential line-item veto. These are the elements that will help taxpayers regain control of the federal government and move this country back on track toward economic growth and prosperity.

Jack Laurie, President
Michigan Farm Bureau
In This Issue

5 BOATERS AND RVs
Plan to enjoy a safe summer

6 HURON'S PHILP DRAIN...
Controversy surrounds drain improvement project

8 POLITICAL WINDS OF CHANGE
Redistricting and retirement plans could have big impact in Michigan

9 ETHANOL AND THE CLEAN AIR ACT
Myths and Facts about Ethanol

16 “FRIENDS OF AGRICULTURE”
Endorsements: Beginning on page 16, read about MFB's candidate evaluation process and the 1992 Primary endorsements.

Of Special Interest

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RURAL LIVING • SUMMER 1992
Boaters,
For Recreational Vehicles . . .

Follow a regular schedule of inspection and maintenance to make sure your RV—whether it's a van, trailer, truck camper, or motor home—is safe. Pay particular attention to tires, brakes, the suspension and exhaust systems, the electrical system, and the bottled gas system. Read your owner's manual, and then read it again so that you'll be thoroughly familiar with your vehicle and its maintenance requirements.

Know the carrying capacity of your vehicle. And remember that even within weight guidelines, improper load distribution can overload an axle combination or a tire-wheel combination.

Check your tires before starting a trip and each morning when traveling. Maintain proper recommended tire pressure, and carry your own tire gauge. Also check your fluid levels regularly — radiator, engine oil, power steering and brake fluid, and transmission.

Each morning before leaving a campground, check your brakes and lighting system.

If your RV uses gas appliances, be alert to signs of gas leaks.

Inspect wiring regularly for signs of abrasion.

Don't overload circuits.

Be sure you have operating smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in your RV.

Be sure your family knows what to do in case of fire. Hold periodic fire drills.

When traveling, make sure all doors are closed and cabinets, drawers, and loose objects are secure.

Keep a well-stocked first aid kit handy. And keep a tool box on hand with supplies such as these:

- A roll of electrical tape.
- A roll of friction tape.
- An assortment of small hand tools.
- An extra quart or two of engine oil, a can of brake fluid, and some windshield washer fluid.
- A few assorted wooden blocks.
- Highway warning devices or flares.
- Two flashlights.
- Wire.
- Your tire gauge.
- Spare fuses.

Enjoy a Safe Summer

If you're planning some outdoor fun with your boat or recreational vehicle this summer, keep these safety tips in mind:

Safety Tips for Boaters . . .

Remember that the three most common causes of boating fatalities are capsizing (37 percent); falls overboard (24 percent); and collision with other boats or objects (14 percent).

Take a boating safety class offered by your local Power Squadron, Coast Guard Auxiliary, or Red Cross. Check with your insurance agent to see if taking such a class will gain you a discount on your boat insurance.

Know your boat's load limit, and don't exceed it. A safe boat is a well-equipped boat. Always carry the necessary safety gear—and know how to use it.

Have approved personal flotation devices on board, and keep them visible and accessible. Each year more than 90 percent of those who die in boating accidents drown—and in those fatalities, more than 75 percent of the victims are not wearing personal flotation devices.

Knowing how to swim makes good sense if you spend time on the water. If you don't know how, learn. But remember, too, that even good swimmers do not always survive the shock or panic of sudden immersion in cold water.

Learn the rules of navigation and observe the courtesies of safe boating.

Don't overdo your boating fun. In three hours of normal boating, the noise, motion, sun, wind, and glare can double your reaction time.

Don't drink while boating. It is illegal, of course, to operate a vessel while intoxicated — but even a drink or two may slow your reaction time, reduce your coordination, and increase your susceptibility to hypothermia. Alcohol is a factor in an estimated 50 percent of all boating fatalities.

Be sure your boat is in good operating condition. Carry a few tools and some spare parts, and learn how to make minor repairs. You might avoid the need for a rescue if you know how to take care of minor breakdowns.

Follow the one-third rule in managing your fuel supply: Use a third of your fuel to go, a third to get back, and keep a third in reserve.

Have an enjoyable and safe summer season.
This portion of the drain is part of the seven-mile extension of the Philp Drain that is at the heart of the controversy and threatens a $7.5 million project and a four year process to improve the drain.

Farmers and landowners along the Philp Drain in Huron County were fed up with poor drainage and ditches that overflowed onto their farmland every time there was a heavy rainfall. In 1988, landowners began the process for drainage improvement by submitting the necessary petitions for such action to Huron County Drain Commissioner Vern Rounds.

Now, four years and $1.5 million dollars later in efforts to improve a drain originally established in 1896, Rounds says the project and the wishes of landowners are threatened. The Philp Drain improvement has been locked in a bitter controversy between the Huron County Drain Commission, the Department of Natural Resources and now, the Environmental Protection Agency.

The controversy stems from an additional seven-mile extension of the Philp Drain to improve gradient and flow of the drain. The EPA and the DNR contend that under existing regulations and their interpretation of the Clean Water Act and the Federal Inland Lakes and Stream Act, the Huron County Drain Commission needed permits to do the extension.

The county Drain Commission, on the other hand, contends that under their interpretation of the law, the extension is nothing more than maintenance of an existing drain that doesn’t require permits, according to Rounds.

The Huron County Circuit Court agreed with the county’s interpretation of the law, blocking two unsuccessful attempts by the DNR in 1991 to have the project halted. The DNR appealed the first decision to the Court of Appeals which upheld the Circuit Court’s decision. A second appeal regarding the need for permits under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Inland Lakes and Streams Act is pending. Michigan Farm Bureau’s board of directors approved the filing of a *amicus curiae* which would support the Circuit Court’s ruling that the permits were not needed.

"The State Court of Appeals will be addressing the question of environmental protection versus the right to and need for agricultural drainage,” explained MFB President Jack Laurie. “The decision they put forth could have statewide implications for Michigan agriculture, and the MFB Board felt it was imperative that the..."
Circuit Court's decision be upheld in the Court of Appeals.

The Huron County Drain Commission assumed that with three court rulings in their favor, the project could continue as originally planned; end of discussion. Not so!

Recently, administrative orders issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, April 23, 1992, cite violations of the Clean Water Act and require that the county submit plans within 30 days "to restore wetlands and the streambed to its original condition and contours."

"In October of 1991, we got our first contact from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, essentially indicating that DNR had called them to become involved under a section of the Federal Clean Water Act," explained Jeff Seidlein, attorney for Huron County. "Then in February of 1992 we received the first of the two administrative orders from the EPA."

At stake over the seven mile extension is an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 acres of prime Huron County farmland that 500 property owners need drainage for in order to farm, in addition to landowners served by six other drains that empty into the Philp Drain.

Unlike other public works projects, the Philp Drain project had widespread community support, says Rounds, with only two landowners challenging the necessity of the project. Despite an abnormally wet spring, now convinced and very supportive of the project," said Rounds. "The people, especially the ones aggrieved by the water conditions and flooding, are certainly very happy and satisfied with the outcome of this project."

Despite several meetings and a lengthy approval process for the drainage improvement project, and despite a meeting with the DNR, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Soil Conservation Service in September of 1989, the DNR did not notify the county that a permit was needed for the extension of the drain until June of 1991, according to Seidlein.

"All during 1990, we were essentially doing design on the project and discussing the wildlife area with the DNR," said Seidlein. "We met with them for the first time in 1989; we dealt with them all during 1990; we had a contract letter in March of 1991 for the project; we sold $1.5 million in bonds in May of 1991; and then in June we get the first letter from the DNR stating that we need a permit on the extension!"

Currently, the contractor is putting the finishing touches to the 13-mile drain improvement project leveling the dredged material known as spills, doing some drainage contouring and seeding the new drain banks. All of that is in jeopardy, however, as the county awaits further action by the EPA in a regulatory showdown of sorts.

"The EPA is aware that we are challenging their jurisdiction at this point and have had discussions with legal counsel for the EPA to sit down and have a meeting," said Seidlein. "We can comply with the order or we can contest it."

According to Vern Rounds, the county has had to spend nearly $35,000 in legal fees and another $15,000 in engineering consultation fees for testimony in the first three court cases, costing Huron County taxpayers $50,000. That figure doesn't include Huron County staff time and the costs of EPA and DNR staff time wasted on fighting this issue in the courts.

"It's very odd and it's very unfortunate that we have to go through this," concluded Rounds. "Drainage is important up here, especially for farmers for that matter, good drainage is important to every living soul in the state of Michigan."

Rural Living spoke with Gerald Winn, Region Five EPA enforcement officer in the Wetlands and Watershed Section, which is responsible for enforcing the EPA's Administrative Order. The following are comments from Winn in the Philp Drain controversy.

"When we found that the DNR would not be permitted, if you will, to require that a permit be issued for this project, EPA took a look at this and said "well, wait a minute here, even if the state regulations don't apply according to the state courts, we still have the responsibility of making sure that federal laws are being applied."

"EPA asserts that a vast majority of the work that took place on Willow Creek was not a formerly maintained drainage ditch. Our bottom line is that there very well may have been drainage problems that needed addressing, but we want to be sure that drainage is accomplished through the most environmentally sensitive approach as practicable.

"What we're looking at, at this point in time, is to get the county deputy drain commissioner in this case to apply for a permit and go through the looking at what alternatives were available that could have accomplished the same purpose with a reduced cost both economically and environmentally.

"The state of Michigan has assumed the Section 404 program for the Federal Clean Water Act. They run that program as an equivalent of the federal wetlands program. Michigan is the only state in the nation that has done that. EPA has the responsibility of keeping an eye on the way that the state administers the federal woodlands programs.

"EPA retains the ability to comment on proposals issued by the DNR under public notice. EPA also retains the ability to intervene in enforcement cases where the EPA finds that the state of Michigan is not taking an appropriate and timely action in an enforcement matter."

RURAL LIVING • SUMMER 1992 7
Political Winds of Change Blowing Across Michigan

Whether it's redistricting, the house checking scandal, or a "throw the bums out" mentality, Michigan's political future is up for grabs with high stakes and surprises developing daily in both political parties.

In all, the reapportionment process has eliminated two U.S. House districts and changed the boundaries of all the remaining 16 districts. On the state level, all of the Michigan House of Representatives seats have been either renumbered or the boundaries rearranged. The Michigan Senate has seen all but a handful of district boundaries changed.

Who's Out
From Washington, D.C., U.S. Rep. Bob Traxler's (D-Bay City) announced retirement was just one of many surprise announcements. Rep. Traxler served on the Appropriations Committee and was a 10-term representative from the 8th district.

U.S. Rep. Bob Davis (R-Gaylord) has announced his retirement as well, an apparent victim of the House banking scandal. Rep. Davis served on the Armed Services; Merchant Marines and Fisheries (ranking minority member) Committees and was seven term representative from the 11th district.

Other retirements thus far include:

Seven-term U.S. Rep. Howard Wolpe (D-Lansing) announced his intentions to retire based on redistricting that made a re-election campaign unfeasible. Wolpe served on the Foreign Affairs and Science, Space and Technology Committees, and chaired the subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight.


From within the state of Michigan, 12-term state Rep. Mickey Knight (R-Muskegon) has announced that he won't seek re-election as have Reps. Claude Trim (R-Waterford), Thomas Power (R-Traverse City), Perry Bullard (D-Ann Arbor), Roland Niederstadt (D-Saginaw), John Bennett (D-Redford), Stephen Dressel (R-Hancock), Thomas Hickner (D-Bay City), Keith Muxlow (R-Brown City), Gordon Sparks (R-Troy), Margaret O'Connor (R-Ann Arbor), and Don Van Singel (R-Grant).

The overall impact of reapportionment should be generally beneficial to rural Michigan, according to MFB Public Affairs Director, Al Almy. With population shifts to the more rural areas, Almy expects the number of the legislators with rural constituents will grow, resulting in a broader awareness of rural and agricultural issues.

Reapportionment will provide county Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committees and members a special opportunity to review qualifications of new candidates, by personal interviews in many cases, and compare voting records of incumbents, to determine which will best address rural issues, in general, and Farm Bureau policy, specifically.

Almy says Farm Bureau members should carefully review the MFB Agri PAC endorsements that result from the input of the Candidate Evaluation Committee and actively support those candidates designated as "Friends of Agriculture."
The Environmental Protection Agency's change in position on ethanol use in reformulated gasolines has the ethanol industry and the nation's farmers wondering who's calling the shots in Washington, D.C.

When the Clean Air Act was passed in 1990, the farm community believed it would share in the growth market for oxygenated fuels, leading to increased demand for corn, sorghum, wheat and other ethanol-producing grains. Under the Clean Air Act, drivers in nine cities with the worse ozone problems would be required to use reformulated gasoline, containing a minimum of 2 percent oxygen beginning in 1995.

Ethanol has a proven track record in lowering emissions. Just a 10 percent blend of ethanol and gasoline provides cleaner burning gas, lower carbon monoxide levels and a reduction in overall emissions in a range of 17 to 33 percent.

"Scientific evidence not only shows that ethanol-blended fuels will help clean the air, it also shows that ethanol-blended fuels may be the best fuels to achieve air quality goals in today's vehicles," said Al Almy, director of public affairs for Michigan Farm Bureau.

But EPA claims the volatility or summer vapor level of ethanol is too high and that this higher volatility contributes to summertime smog problems. Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups contend the rules fault ethanol for minor volatility problems, while failing to factor in the many positive benefits.

Congress granted ethanol-blended fuels a one-pound volatility waiver when it originally passed the Clean Air Act. Under the proposed rules, however, that one-pound waiver would be eliminated. EPA contends the proposed rules merely limit the use of ethanol during summertime periods in the nine problem cities.

Ethanol producers worry, however, that such a partial elimination has the effect of eliminating ethanol for good due to the size of affected markets and the general reluctance of distributors to switch back and forth.

U.S. Sen. David Durenberger (R-Minnesota) told a congressional panel that Congress clearly intended ethanol to play a major role in the clean air program. "I was one of a handful of members of Congress who negotiated the Clean Air Act with the administration," he said. "I'm confident I know what Congress intended to do. It was my intent - and Congress's intent - that ethanol play a major role in cleaning up America's air. EPA knew that then, and they know that now."

"Given EPA's previous support for volatility waivers, we were shocked when EPA suggested that ethanol blends could not fully participate in the reformulated gasoline program," said Tim Trotter, president of the National Corn Growers Association.

According to Robert Lichty, a fuels consultant, if higher levels of ethanol were used, problems with vapor emissions would actually decline. The increase in vapor pressure from adding ethanol to gasoline peaks at about 10 percent and then begins to decrease dramatically.

"For years, Brazil and other countries have been using ethanol-gasoline mixtures with minimal evaporation problems caused by vapor pressure," Lichty said. "Ethanol's value in reducing carbon monoxide and unburned hydrocarbons certainly outweigh any minor evaporative problems."
Questions and Answers About Ethanol

Q. Will ethanol void my car’s warranty?
A. Certainly not! Today all manufacturers approve the use of ethanol, and some even recommend ethanol for environmental reasons. Many manufacturers do, however, recommend against the use of methanol.

Q. What is the difference between ethanol and methanol?
A. They are both alcohols. Ethanol is a fermented alcohol made primarily from corn. Methanol is made from natural gas or coal, and is also known as wood alcohol. Methanol is highly corrosive, more volatile than ethanol, and damaging to plastic and rubber fuel system components.

Q. Does ethanol lead to plugged fuel filters?
A. Ethanol can loosen contaminants and residues that have been deposited by previous gasoline fills. This problem is more prevalent in older cars and can easily be corrected by changing the fuel filter. Once your car’s fuel system is clean, you may note improved performance.

Q. How do we know that we’re not getting more than 10 percent ethanol?
A. It’s easy to blend exactly 10 percent ethanol, so it’s very unlikely that it would be mis-blended. In order to qualify for tax exemptions, the law says that the blend must be 10 percent.

Q. Why is ethanol labelled when other gasoline components are not?
A. When ethanol came on the market in the early eighties, the oil industry convinced many state legislatures that the consumer needed to be warned about the presence of ethanol in gasoline. Some states are now starting to recognize that gasoline composition is much more complicated than just “with” or “without” ethanol and are removing the ethanol labelling requirements because it’s discriminatory.

Q. Some gasoline stations advertise “pure gasoline” - what do they mean?
A. The statement “pure gasoline” is a marketing gimmick. Gas is a complex mixture of hundreds of organic hydrocarbons that are produced at a petroleum refinery. Gasoline components are not mixed to a specific “recipe,” but are blended so that the final product falls within certain specifications with the least costly ingredients.

Q. Why do gas stations put up “No Ethanol” signs?
A. Because it has been one of the most effective marketing campaigns ever used in some parts of the country. It’s been used primarily by the major oil companies that own refineries and produce their own octane components. Consumers are misled into believing that ethanol is an inferior product as a result.

Q. How does ethanol reduce carbon monoxide?
A. Since ethanol contains oxygen, it contributes to a cleaner, more efficient burn of the gasoline. And ethanol is a simple chemical which, when burned, does not produce the complex pollutants and aromatics formed by many hydrocarbons and gasoline additives.

Global Warming: What Kind of a Disaster?
The question of whether or not the world is subject to global warming has turned into a furious debate within the scientific community. Although the public media often refers to the “Greenhouse” effect of increasing CO₂ (carbon dioxide) in the atmosphere as fact, many scientists are saying there is little, if any, scientifically verifiable proof that this is happening.

The global warming theory is predicated on the idea that chlorofluorocarbons are destroying the ozone in our atmosphere. However, consider the following:

1. Chlorofluorocarbon production peaked at 1.1 million tons per year in the early 1980s. This accounts for roughly 750,000 tons of chloride annually.
2. Evaporation of sea water provides the atmosphere with 600 million tons of chloride per year.
3. Passive out-gassing from the earth accounts for 36 million tons of chloride per year.
4. Volcanic eruptions emit a few million to a hundred million tons of chloride. Again, only about 0.75 million tons of chloride come from the man-made chlorofluorocarbons annually, but at least 50 to 60 times this figure is being released into the stratosphere by nature.

Last, there is no documented evidence of chlorofluorocarbon molecules in the stratosphere. There has been no mechanism proposed to show how the heavy molecules reach the stratosphere. There are no measurement data, only theory. In fact, recently revised temperature records call into question whether there is even a global warming trend occurring. Weather scientists are currently trying to incorporate sea temperature records with long standing land-based temperature records for a more accurate world picture. Worldwide temperature changes are part of long-term cycles that span centuries. Yet, the supporters of the global warming theory are adamant. Why?

Here is what Dr. Stephen Schneider of the National Research Center for Atmospheric Research says referring to the high costs of computer modeling: “We need to get some broad-base support to capture the public’s imagination. That, of course, entails getting loads of media coverage. So we have to offer scenarios, make some simplified, dramatic statements and make little mention of any doubts that we might have. Each of us has to decide what is the right balance between effective and being honest.” (Discovery, October 1989, page 47.)

The entire question of global warming needs long and extensive study before billions or trillions of dollars are spent to deal with a problem that may not exist or is relatively minor. This is why President Bush’s refusal to sign a treaty at the Rio Earth Summit that did nothing more than monitor or study world climatic change was an appropriate stance based upon the facts available at this time.

Agricultural Aviators

We've probably all seen them, at one time or another, performing what appears to be barnstorming stunts of days gone by. However, these professionals are anything but stuntmen, and they're using space-age technology to get the job done.

They're what's known as agricultural aviators, applying both manufactured and organic pesticides on farms and on wooded land in an effort to control gypsy moths and flying on wheat seed for farms across the state.

Nearly 30 pilots from Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin were in Pinconning, Michigan recently for a two day program sponsored by the Michigan Agricultural Aviation Association, the Michigan Department of Agriculture, and the Cooperative Extension Service. "Operation Safe" was designed to hone agricultural pilot skills by testing their equipment and themselves, according to Bill Hatfield, an agricultural pilot of 27 years from the Nunica area.

"We consider this program very important, because we can prove where the pesticide has gone from the time it's mixed into the tank until it has been sprayed," explained Hatfield. "Using the equipment we have available, we can analyze the quantity of the material that has been deposited and where."

The high-tech equipment Hatfield refers to includes a computerized swath deposition system utilizing spray cards that are analyzed via computer to graphically demonstrate the spray pattern of the plane. There are only 12 such systems in existence in the world. In addition, a measuring kit originally developed by NASA uses string and photo analysis to verify calibration of the equipment.

During the morning portions of the program, each plane flew two passes across the string and the spray cards, spraying a mixture of water and red dye to simulate an actual spray pass. The cards are then passed before a light to capture the pattern on a computer. The string is also wound up and fed into a computer for image analysis.

After the analysis, spray equipment adjustments are made accordingly, which may include changing spray nozzles and/or booms, or changing the plane height while in the spray pattern, Hatfield said. The plane is then retested by flying another two passes over the string and cards. "We basically try to fine-tune the pilot and the equipment to do the best job possible," he said.

Hatfield said the growing environmental sensitivity has put a damper on the more traditional agricultural aerial pesticide application. However, the increased need for gypsy moth and mosquito control has created several new business opportunities as well as new relationships for the industry.

"Often times, various groups will be pushing a biological insecticide versus one that may be more hazardous to the environment," he said. "We try to be sensitive to that and be involved with those groups and attempt to use alternative pesticides whenever and wherever possible."

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All your non-prescription vitamin and pain relief products are also available at a savings!

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**Michigan Farm Bureau FREE BIC PEN**

Return this coupon with any order and receive a Free Bic Pen compliments of Feld Prescription Service. Call 1-800-228-3353 for instructions on how to order. Offer expires June 30, 1992.

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**Michigan Farm Bureau FREE CATALOG**

Simply call Feld at 1-800-228-3353 and receive your catalog detailing savings on over 5000 health care items. Included will be a $3 coupon good on your first prescription order.
Salads come into their own during the summer months when fresh produce is bountiful. By combining summer’s harvest with fresh dairy products, you can create delicious and colorful salads with special appeal.

What makes any salad “work” is a compatible combination of ingredients and specially blended dressing. The best salads, of course, taste good and also look good. Presentation or eye appeal is an important part of eating enjoyment.

A main-dish favorite combines fresh fruit and cottage cheese. For a special presentation, select a variety of fresh fruit and arrange it attractively on a platter with ruffly leaf lettuce. At the center of the platter, mound cottage cheese mixed with crumbled Blue cheese and chopped walnuts. For those who like a dressing for the fruit, dairy sour cream sweetened with honey is simple to prepare and a pleasing fruit topper.

Potato salad ranks high on almost everybody’s summer salad list. It’s a versatile accompaniment to a cold meat and cheese platter or gourmet burgers cooked on the grill. This zippy version uses dairy sour cream as a dressing base, accented with Dijon-style mustard and tarragon wine vinegar. For the best flavor, mix the dressing and chill it for an hour before blending it with sliced potatoes. Then chill the salad to allow it to develop flavor before serving. This special potato salad is accented with shredded Cheddar Cheese and crumbled crisp bacon.

### Surprise Fruited Cheese Salad

- **4 servings**
- 2 cups dairy sour cream
- 1/4 cup honey
- 4 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 container (16 ounces) cottage cheese
- 1 cup (4 ounces) crumbled Blue cheese
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- Lettuce
- 2 cups seedless grapes
- 2 cups chopped apples
- 2 cups honeydew melon balls
- 2 cups fresh pineapple

Combine sour cream, honey, lemon juice and extract; mix well. Chill, covered, 1 to 2 hours to allow flavors to blend. Meanwhile combine cottage and Blue cheeses in small mixer bowl. Beat on high speed of mixer until well blended, about 3 minutes. Fold in nuts. Chill, covered, 1 to 2 hours to allow flavors to blend.

To serve, arrange lettuce leaves on large serving platter. Arrange 2 rows of fruit as listed in ingredients. Then make a row of cheese mixture, followed by 2 more rows of fruit. Or place mixture in center of plate and surround by rows of fruit. Pass sour cream mixture as dressing.

**Serving size: 1/4 of recipe**

**Calories per serving:** 797
- Protein 28 g, fat 49 g, carbohydrate 71 g
- Calcium 404 mg, riboflavin (B2) .60 mg

### Zippy Potato Salad

- **Yield: 7 cups**
- **Dressing:**
  - 1 cup dairy sour cream
  - 1-1/2 tablespoons Dijon-style prepared mustard
  - 1 tablespoon tarragon wine vinegar
  - 1 teaspoon sugar
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon pepper

- **Salad:**
  - 3 cups peeled, thinly sliced red potatoes
  - 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded Cheddar cheese
  - 6 slices bacon, cooked, drained, crumbled
  - 1/2 cup chopped celery
  - 1/3 cup chopped red pepper
  - 1/4 cup sliced green onion

For dressing, combine all ingredients; chill, covered, 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.

For salad, place potatoes in salted water and cover. Bring to boil; boil 1 minute. Rinse immediately in cold water. Let stand in cold water until cooled. Combine potatoes, cheese, bacon and vegetables. Cover and chill 1 hour. Fold dressing into potato salad mixture. Chill about 1 hour to allow flavors to blend.

**Serving size: 1 cup**

**Calories per serving:** 225
- Protein 8 g, fat 15 g, carbohydrate 14 g
- Calcium 165 mg, riboflavin (B2) .15 mg
The “basic four” food groups, which have been used as a dietary guide since the 1950s, have been replaced by a new “Food Guide Pyramid.”

The pyramid was unveiled by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan. A year ago, a similar pyramid design generated controversy when it was introduced and quickly withdrawn by Madigan, who said he was “not convinced its message would be clear.”

Some commodity groups and nutritionists objected to the pyramid last year because they felt certain products, particularly milk and meat, were unfavorably portrayed.

This year, more controversy centered around the cost of additional studies Madigan ordered—approximately $855,000—than on the placement of the foods. But Madigan said that amount is only a fraction of the $320 million spent annually by USDA on nutrition education.

The study presented several graphics, including the pyramid, to 26 focus groups in four cities throughout the country. Two graphics emerged as the strongest from the testing—one was a revised version of the pyramid and the other was a bowl.

Madigan said the results showed the revised pyramid most clearly helped people understand the importance of eating different amounts of food from the different food groups, plus the need for moderation in the diet.

“We need to be sure any message we put out can be understood clearly by everyone who participates in our programs,” Madigan said.

The food guide pyramid recommends six to 11 daily servings of breads, cereals, rice and pasta, which are shown at the base of the pyramid. The second tier is made up of vegetables and fruits, with three to five servings of vegetables and two to four servings of fruits recommended. The next tier is the milk, yogurt and cheese group, and the meat, poultry, fish, dry beans and peas, eggs and nuts group. USDA recommends two to three daily servings.

The top tier is fats, oils and sweets, which should be consumed sparingly, according to USDA.

The “basic four” included the meat, milk, bread, and fruit and vegetable groups.

Madigan said the new pyramid is not meant to create the impression of good and bad foods.

“If the pyramid recommends fewer servings of one type of food than of another, that doesn’t mean one food is less important than another,” Madigan said. “All foods provide important nutrients. The trick is making lower-fat choices.”

Food Guide Pyramid
A Guide to Daily Food Choices

Fats, Oils, & Sweets
USE SPARINGLY

Milk, Yogurt, & Cheese Group
2-3 SERVINGS

Vegetable Group
3-5 SERVINGS

Meat, Poultry, Fish, Dry Beans, Eggs, & Nuts Group
2-3 SERVINGS

Fruit Group
2-4 SERVINGS

Bread, Cereal, Rice, & Pasta Group
6-11 SERVINGS

KEY
Fat (naturally occurring and added)
Sugars (added)
These symbols show fats, oils, and added sugars in foods.
Registration Information

The close of registration for the August 4 Primary was July 7. The close of registration for the November 3 General Election is October 5.

NOTE: Once you are registered, there is no need to register again unless you move to a different city or township in the state, or fail to vote for five consecutive years.

Where to register: To register, you must appear in person in your city or township clerk’s office. You can also register by visiting your county clerk’s office or any of the 185 Secretary of State branch offices located throughout the state.

Mail registration: If you are temporarily absent from your city or township of residence, or if you are disabled and cannot make a personal appearance to register, you can register to vote by mail. Contact your city or township clerk for form and procedural information.

Residing out of state (temporarily): Register in Michigan using the address where you last lived, even if you no longer maintain the residence. Your city or township clerk will have the necessary forms. If you have registered in another state since leaving Michigan, you are ineligible to register in Michigan.

Obtaining Absent Voter Ballots

You can obtain an absentee ballot if you are a registered and qualified voter of the state and you:

• are 60 years of age or more; or
• expect to be absent from the city or township in which you are registered to vote for the entire time the polls are open on election day; or
• are unable to go to the polls and vote without the assistance of another person; or
• are confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

If you meet one or more of the conditions above, you may obtain an absentee ballot by writing to the city or township clerk. Telephone requests cannot be honored. Your written request must include: your name, date of the election, address where you are registered to vote, the reason why you are requesting an absentee ballot, the address where you wish to receive your ballot, and your signature and the date of the request.

If you qualify to receive an absentee ballot, you also have the option of voting in your city or township clerk’s office at any time up to 4 p.m. on the day before the election.

If you have any questions, contact your local clerk’s office or call the Michigan Department of State, Bureau of Elections, phone: 517-373-2540.

What Makes A Successful Campaign?

“The successful campaign consists of three components: volunteers, money and a knowledgeable candidate. Overall, the Farm Bureau AgriPac is addressing these basic needs,” says Bob LaBrandt, vice-president of political affairs with the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce. He was an advisor when Michigan Farm Bureau formed its political action committee in 1978 and he says Farm Bureau members can be proud of the grass roots political action program they have established.

“Over the past 14 years, AgriPac has developed into one of the largest political action committees on the state scene and, along with other groups like the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce, has brought a balance to Michigan politics that didn’t exist in the 60s and 70s. The fact is, with the ability to be organized at the county level, Farm Bureau members have a better opportunity to help promote the successful election of the candidates they have endorsed,” says LaBrandt.

Michigan Farm Bureau became one of the few state Farm Bureaus across the nation to form a political action committee in 1977. The recommendation to establish AgriPac was unanimously approved by Farm Bureau members at the 1977 Michigan Farm Bureau annual meeting. They called for the development of a program that would designate “Friends of Agriculture.” That action ended a 60-year organization tradition of taking a non-partisan position at election time. AgriPac was active for the first time in the 1978 primary and general elections.

AgriPac Chairperson Faye Adam, of Sanilac County, stresses the grass roots nature of Farm Bureau’s political action committee process.

“The farmer members who serve on county Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committees are vitally important to the integrity of the organization’s PAC process. They know the candidates. They know the attitudes of Farm Bureau members in their county toward the candidates, and they know whether the candidates recognize the importance of agriculture in the areas they represent,” Adam says. “That’s the kind of frontline evaluation our state AgriPac Committee uses to determine which candidates will be designated ‘Friends of Agriculture.’”

During County Candidate Evaluation Committee training and information sessions conducted in February of this year, members heard the guidelines: “Set aside partisan politics and be completely objective in your evaluations.”

AgriPac endorsement does not automatically mean that a direct, financial contribution will be made to the candidate’s campaign, according to Al Almy, who serves as secretary for the statewide PAC. AgriPac uses the organization’s extensive communications network of publications and volunteers to promote endorsed candidates among the nearly 120,000 Farm Bureau members in the state. “Everyone, including the candidates, knows that farmers are a minority, but they have the potential of being a majority at the polls because they take their citizenship rights and responsibilities very seriously,” says Almy. “Consequently, we can deliver on the commitment we have made to agriculture’s friends.”
Key Issues Analyzed During Endorsement Process

County Farm Bureaus reviewed the voting records of incumbents on 10 key issues for both the U.S. House of Representatives and the Michigan House of Representatives. Those issues and subsequent voting records include the following:

**U.S. House of Representative Issues**

1. **Handgun Waiting Period** - Vote on passage of a bill to require a seven-day waiting period for handgun purchases. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the bill May 8, 1991. Farm Bureau opposes a waiting period for purchases of firearms and favored a "N" vote.

2. **Budget Conference Report** - Vote on adoption of a conference report to set budget levels for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1992. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the measure May 22, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote, because the measure did not prohibit the use of tax increases to fund higher levels of entitlement spending.

3. **Disapproval of Fast Track Procedures** - Vote on adoption of resolution to disapprove a two-year extension of fast track procedures that would require Congress to approve or disapprove trade agreements but not allow consideration of amendments to the trade agreements. The U.S. House of Representatives defeated the resolution May 23, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.


5. **Agricultural Disaster Assistance** - Vote on passage of a bill to provide a disaster assistance program to crop producers for 1990 or 1991 crop losses. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the bill July 25, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

6. **Wetlands Study Amendment** - Vote on adoption of an amendment to provide $500,000 to the National Academy of Sciences for a study on the scientific basis of the 1981 proposed wetlands delineation manual. The U.S. House of Representatives defeated the amendment Oct. 29, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote, because the amendment was an effort by environmentalists to delay reform of wetlands regulations.


8. **Transportation Funding** - Vote on adoption of conference report to provide $151 billion for surface transportation programs through fiscal year 1997 and give states greater flexibility to decide how their transportation funds are spent. The U.S. House of Representatives approved the conference report Nov. 27, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

9. **Economic Stimuli** - Vote on an amendment to implement a plan to stimulate the economy. The plan would cut the capital gains tax, allow a $5,000 tax credit and penalty-free withdrawals from an IRA for first-time home buyers, passive loss deductions for real estate developers, increase the depreciation for business equipment, and new rules encouraging real estate investment by pension funds. The U.S. House of Representatives defeated the amendment Feb. 27, 1992. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote because the plan used economic incentives to help the economy without imposing tax increases.

10. **Legal Services Corporation** - Vote on a bill to substitute a package of amendments providing meaningful reform to an original Legal Service Corporation bill that contained many objectionable provisions for agricultural employers. The U.S. House of Representatives defeated the substitute amendments May 12, 1992. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.

**Michigan House of Representative's Issues**

1. **Off-Road Vehicles** - Vote on passage of a bill to provide a comprehensive system for the use of off-road vehicles (ORVs) including a "closed unless posted open" policy on state owned lands, funds earmarked for increased enforcement, and penalties for restoration of damage to land or water caused by ORVs. The Michigan House passed the bill Feb 13, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


3. **Sales Tax Exemption** - Vote on passage of a bill to exempt the purchase of livestock sold at auction from the state sales tax. The Michigan House passed the bill June 20, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


5. **Farmland and Open Space** - Vote on passage of a bill to amend P.A. 116 so that proceeds from lien payments by landowners would be used by the DNR not only for the purchase of development rights on unique and critical lands, but also for the administration of the act. The Michigan House passed the bill Sept. 28, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


7. **Agriculture Budget** - Vote on passage of a bill to provide a 1991-92 budget for the Michigan Department of Agriculture which provided continued/expanded funding for important programs. The Michigan House passed the bill Sept. 27, 1991. Farm Bureau favored a "Y" vote.


10. **No-Fault Insurance Reform** - Vote on passage of a bill to rollback auto insurance rates 15 percent, following a one year rate freeze, without necessary reforms to offset the rollback. The Michigan House passed the bill May 14, 1992. Farm Bureau favored a "N" vote.
### Friends of Agriculture

**Primary Endorsements**

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- **U.S. House of Representatives**

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<td>105 Love, Allen (R-Grayling)</td>
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<td>62 Martin, William (R-Battle Creek)</td>
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<td>76 Mathieu, Thomas (D-Grand Rapids)</td>
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<td>99 McBryde, James (R-Mt. Pleasant)</td>
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<td>104 McManus, Michelle (R-Traverse City)*</td>
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<td>98 McNutt, James (R-Midland)</td>
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<td>110 Wolfe, Fayth (R-Houghton)</td>
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<td>26 Yokich, Tracey (D-St. Clair Shores)</td>
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<td>4 Young, Joseph, Jr. (D-Detroit)</td>
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<td>3 Young, Joseph, Sr. (D-Detroit)</td>
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<td>50 Zelenko, Paula (R-Burton)</td>
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- ** = Non-Incumbent Endorsement**

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*RURAL LIVING • SUMMER 1992*
In these tough economic times, all business owners are looking for ways to improve their bottom line. Now Farm Bureau can help with a new money saving group Health Plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan.

These new plans are guaranteed issue no matter what your health history, locally serviced by our 69 county offices and 400 agents statewide, and competitively priced to save farm owners and operators hundreds or even thousands of dollars off their health insurance bill. So, if you’re a sole proprietor or if you have one or more employees, you should call Farm Bureau today for benefit and rate information.
Dear Farm Bureau Traveler:

Welcome to our world of travel! We invite you to join us on any one of the exciting and unique tours provided just for you in 1992. Our tours will provide you the best value for your travel dollar. On a Farm Bureau Tour, you will experience the best and major attractions as well as have the opportunity to meet some of the people and learn more of their culture and lifestyles. But perhaps the best feature of our Farm Bureau World Tours is the great people you meet and get to know while on the tour – people like yourself.

Thank you for your consideration of a Farm Bureau World Tour for 1992. Please mail us your request form today to lean more about the best travel values available.

Happy Travels!

Sincerely,

James L. Schmidt,  
Illinois Agricultural Assoc.  
Director  
IFB Travel Program

Douglas Fleming,  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Manager  
Field Operations Division

The Alps of Switzerland & Austria

October 1-9, 1992

Come join us as we visit two of the prettiest and most picturesque countries in Central Europe. Experience the charm and beauty of Salzburg, Munich, and Oktoberfest, Oberammergau, the Linderhoff Castle, Lichtenstein and much, much more.

Our package includes round trip air service, deluxe motor coach transportation, hotel accommodations, European-style buffet breakfast, and a welcome dinner, all for $1,253 per person.

Best of Italy, France & Greece Cruise

September 15-27, 1992

Sail the brilliant blue Meditarranean, studded with shining isles and gaily painted shorelines. Our cruise combines the French and Italian Rivieras with ageless Athens, the dramatic Corinth Canal, the serene beauty of Venice & Portifino, and the world's most alluring islands: Mykonos, Santorini, Corfu, Rhodes, Korcula, and quaint Capri. We travel upon the Golden Odyssey – large enough and luxurious enough to be a cruiseliner, yet renowned for its friendly lifestyle and genuine hospitality of her Greek staff.

Our cruise package includes 25% discount on all cabins, all meals and entertainment, free air transportation from the U.S., $25 Bar/Boutique credit, group cocktail party, 1 bottle of wine per cabin, plus prepaid, on-board tip and gratuities. Cabin prices begin as low as $3,374.

Brochure Request Form

Please send, without obligation, the detailed information for the tours indicated below.

[ ] Best of Italy, France & Greece Cruise  [ ] The Alps of Switzerland & Austria

(Please Print)

Name ____________________________  Address ____________________________

Phone ____________________________  County ____________________________

(Mail to:)

Farm Bureau  
Member Travel Services  
P.O. Box 4577  
East Lansing, MI 48826  
or call  
1-800-748-0289

College costs will be a little easier to bear for 23 Michigan high school students who received Scholar-Athlete Awards of $1,000 each from Farm Bureau Insurance.

The winners of the scholarships were honored before a large crowd and statewide television audience during the boy's high school basketball finals at the Palace of Auburn Hills, March 28. Larry Thomas, executive vice president of Farm Bureau Insurance, presented the awards during halftime ceremonies.

Now in its third year, the scholarships program is sponsored by Farm Bureau Insurance in conjunction with the Michigan High School Athletic Association. The awards recognize male and female students who excel in both the classroom and the athletic field. Awards are presented to the top student-athletes in all sports in which the Michigan High School Athletic Association sponsors a post-season tournament. Nearly 1,200 students applied for the 23 scholarships for the 1991-92 school year.

This year's scholarship winners were as follows.

For the Fall Sports Season:
- Rachel Joy Shaarda, McBain-Northern, Michigan Christian (girls' basketball)
- Adam Kuzinski, Hartland (boys' cross country)
- Lisa Janelle Passmore, Waterford-Kettering (girls' cross country)
- Michael Keefer, Elkton-Pigeon-Bayport (football)
- Bradley James Tate, Montague (boys' golf)
- Brian Pardee, Parchment (boys' soccer)
- Emily Malvitz, Ferndale (girls' swimming and diving)
- Sarah Ann Schultz, Muskegon-Catholic Central (girls' tennis)

For the Winter Sports Season:
- Craig M. Frohock, Mt. Clemens-L'Anse Creuse (boys' basketball)
- Julie Nurnberger, Lansing-Eastern (girls' gymnastics)
- Curt Schafer, Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Central (ice hockey)
- Jeffery Wickham Gregory, Traverse City (boys' skiing)

For the Spring Sports Season:
- Andrew M. Johnson, Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern (baseball)
- Melinda Ann Popiel, Grand Rapids-Forest Hills Northern (girls' golf)
- Justine Tompkins, Highland-Milford (girls' soccer)
- Michelle McNally, Northville (softball)
- Eric Chung, East Lansing (boys' tennis)
- James Paul Carson, Ann Arbor-Huron (boys' track)
- Gala Derwin, Munising (girls' track)

Application materials for students graduating during the 1992-93 school year will be sent to Michigan high school principals in July. Applications in all sports must be received in the Michigan High School Athletic Association office by 4 p.m. on Oct. 30, 1992.
Michigan Farm Bureau offers all members the following selection of theme park discounts and discounted admission tickets:

**DISCOUNTED ADMISSION TICKETS TO:**

- Cedar Point
- Kings Island
- Detroit Zoo
- Boblo Island
- Pleasure Island

**THEME PARK DISCOUNT CARDS:**

- Disney World/MGM/Epcot
- Disney Land
- Universal Studios
- Sea World/Cypress Gardens/Busch Gardens
- Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village
- Opryland

To purchase advance tickets or receive discount cards to the above parks, call or visit your local county Farm Bureau office.
It pays to associate with Alamo.

Which of these three Alamo offers is best for you?

As a member of Alamo's Association Program, you can enjoy great benefits every time you rent from Alamo. You can start by using the attached certificate for a free upgrade or $5 to $10 off your next association weekly rental. You'll also receive unlimited free mileage on every rental in the U.S. or U.K., discounted daily and weekly rates and a $3000 maximum responsibility for car damage, loss of use or theft if CDW is declined. Plus, you can earn Frequent Flyer miles with Alaska, Delta and United airlines. So you can see, it really does pay to associate with Alamo.

$5 OFF
Your next rental.

- (In the U.S.) Valid for $5 OFF association weekly rentals (5 days or more) of any compact through premium car category only.
- In the United Kingdom) Valid for £5 OFF association weekly rentals on any group B through group E car category only.
- Reservations are subject to availability at time of booking. A 24-hour advance reservation is required.
- One certificate per rental accepted; must be presented at the Alamo counter on arrival. Once redeemed, the certificate is void.
- This certificate and the car rental pursuant to it are subject to Alamo's conditions at the time of rental. May be redeemed for the basic rate of the Alamo car rental which does not include taxes and other optional items.
- Offer valid through 12/1/92 (except 4/1/92 - 4/1/92).

For reservations in the U.S. or United Kingdom call your Professional Travel Agent or call Alamo at 1-800-327-9633 (U.S.) or 1-800-522-9696 (U.K.). You must request Rate Code BY and use your membership ID number.

$10 OFF
Your next rental.

- (In the U.S.) Valid for $10 OFF association weekly rentals (5 days or more) of any compact through premium car category only.
- In the United Kingdom) Valid for £10 OFF association weekly rentals on any group B through group E car categories only.
- Reservations are subject to availability at time of booking. A 24-hour advance reservation is required.
- One certificate per rental accepted; must be presented at the Alamo counter on arrival. Once redeemed, the certificate is void.
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One Free Upgrade

- Valid for one FREE upgrade to next car category, subject to availability at time of rental.
- (In the U.S.) Valid from a compact car or above, excluding luxury and specialty cars.
- In the United Kingdom) Valid from a group B car category or above, excluding group E cars and above.
- One certificate per rental accepted; must be presented at the Alamo counter on arrival. Once redeemed, the certificate is void. A 24-hour advance reservation is required.
- This certificate and the car rental pursuant to it are subject to Alamo's conditions at the time of rental. May be redeemed for the basic rate of the Alamo car rental which does not include taxes and other optional items.
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WE HELP MICHIGAN KIDS PAINT BRIGHTER FUTURES

Give young people a chance and you'll be amazed at what they can do . . . write thought-provoking essays, win contests, or earn college scholarships.

Farm Bureau Insurance offers these opportunities to Michigan young people through our many youth-oriented programs:

• In cooperation with the Michigan High School Athletic Association, we sponsor scholarships for Michigan students who excel in both academics and athletics. We award 23 of these $1,000 scholarships each year.

• For younger students, we sponsor the America & Me Essay Contest for Michigan eighth graders. Now in its 24th year, the contest encourages Michigan young people to explore their roles in America’s future. Thousands of students enter each year.

• We also sponsor Junior Achievement, statewide Future Farmers of America programs, and numerous athletic events through the Michigan High School Athletic Association.

It's all part of our commitment to Michigan and its people . . . the same kind of commitment that goes into every product and service we sell.

MAKING YOUR FUTURE MORE PREDICTABLE